Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01571 210441Z ACTION IO-14

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

CONFIDENTIAL STOCKHOLM 1571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLO LE MOPS SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH CONTINGENT IN UNIFIL

- 1. AT LUNCH APRIL 20 GIVEN BY SWEDISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE KRONMARK FOR VISITING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THOMAS ROSS, DCM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO UNIFIL, WHEREUPON KRONMARK NOTED THAT SWEDISH PARTICIPATION HAD TIME LIMITATION. DCM SAID HE GATHERED THAT UN WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY COLLECTING AS MANY TROOPS AS NEEDED, AND HAD IMPRESSION USG AND OTHERS WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF SWEDISH CONTINGENT COULD STAY LONGER.
- 2. KRONMARK, WHO HAS VISITED SWEDISH TROOPS IN SINAI HIMSELF, SAID THERE WAS CLEAR NEED TO GET SWEDISH TROOPS BACK TO SINAI, SINCE THEY HAD LARGE AREA TO COVER THERE, WHILE CYPRUS RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUED AS WELL. HE SAID EACH BATTALION ON UN DUTY REQUIRED SOME FIFTY CAREER OFFICERS TO LEAVE SWEDEN, WHICH WAS SPREADING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 01571 210441Z

SWEDISH RESOURCES THIN FOR TRAINING ITS OWN RECRUITS INSIDE SWEDEN. KRONMARK SAID HE WAS NOT SETTING A DEFINITE TIME LIMIT, HE WAS MERELY SAYING IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SWEDISH UNIFIL CONTINGENT TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY. DCM SAID UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, PERHAPS THE LONGER THEY COULD STAY, THE BETTER. KRONMARK ADDED THAT MANY COUNTRIES

APPLAUDED UNIFIL, BUT HE WISHED THEY WOULD DO MORE IN GIVING TROOPS AND PAYING THEIR BILLS.

3. COMMENT. WHILE KRONMARK MADE IT CLEAR HE WAS NOT SETTING TIME LIMIT, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE SWEDISH MOD WANT IT TO BE KNOWN THAT THE SWEDES ARE FEELING THE PINCH FROM THEIR TROOPS' DUTY IN UNIFIL AND THAT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE DURATION OF THEIR STAY IN LEBANON.

KENNEDY-MINOTT

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